

## ABSTRACT

A plasma expander and blood substitute comprising a therapeutic amount of a solution of alpha-keratose, a soluble fraction of keratin, as an oncotic agent with nutrient growth properties suitable as a transport vehicle for the natural or synthetically formed elements of blood. The solution of alpha-keratose is non-antigenic, does not require blood typing, is free of disease producing viruses and may be stored indefinitely at ambient temperatures in the lyophilized state.

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